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Attorney Docket No. F-5731  
W&W Ref: 1417P P 594

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of:  
Kok-Hwee Ng et al.

Serial No: 09/865,052

Filed: May 24, 2001

For: A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
CONVERTING AN EXISTING BLOOD  
COLLECTION INSTRUMENT'S  
COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

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) Examiner: Unknown  
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) Art Unit:  
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#9/PreAmend A  
J. J. Bynon  
5/04

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please delete the noted paragraphs and replace them with paragraphs printed below (marked up copies of the corresponding pages are attached as Attachments A, B, and C).

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 5 at line 28 and ending on page 6 at line 12 with the following paragraph:

A1

- - The present invention is directed to an apparatus or system for collecting, using, and